

What is prayer, and how should we pray? (Matthew 6:9-13)

Part 1- The Lord's Prayer:

1. Glorify God and worship him

"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name."

2. Prioritise God over yourself

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

3. Pray for your needs, not wealth

(Jesus quotes proverbs 30:7-9: "...give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion, that I not be full and deny You and say, 'Who is the Lord?' Or that I not be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God")

Give us this day our daily bread,

4. Repent and ask for forgiveness

and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

5. Pray for Gods leading in this dark world

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Part 2- How we should not pray:

1. We should not pray if we are unrepentant

For what is the hope of the godless when God cuts him off, when God takes away his life? Will God hear his cry when distress comes upon him? -Job 27:8-9

If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. -Psalm 66:18

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

-Psalm 145:18

Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, they would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, -Proverbs 1:28-30

The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous. -Proverbs 15:29

If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination. -Proverbs 28:9

When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. -Isaiah 1:15

And the Lord said: "Because this people draw near with their mouth and honor me with their lips, while their hearts are far from me, and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men, -Isaiah 29:13

but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.
-Isaiah 59:2

They made their hearts diamond-hard lest they should hear the law
and the words that the Lord of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the
former prophets. Therefore great anger came from the Lord of hosts.
“As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not
hear,” says the Lord of hosts, -Zechariah 7:12-13

From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these
things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same
opening both fresh and salt water? -James 3:10-11

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on
your passions. -James 4:3

Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way,
showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs
with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.
For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to
their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.”
-1 Peter 3:7, 12

The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers. -1 Peter 4:7

2. Our prayers should not be lengthy and dramatic

“And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. -Matthew 6:5-8

who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” -Mark 12:40

“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ -Luke 18:10-12

“Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and love greetings in the marketplaces and the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” -Luke 20:46-47

3. Our prayers should be for edification, not disorderly.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. -John 3:6

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.

-1 Corinthians 13:1-2 (if i pray loudly without consideration of others... i am just making noise)

1 corinthians 14 broken down and explained

The pursuit of love is the context for orderly worship:

Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit. On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

If I pray or teach in my one language, i benefit myself, but not the hearer, my prayer or sermon should be interpreted into the hearers language.

The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up. Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.

Tongues are languages which have meaning

There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and

none is without meaning, but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

We should pray and teach in such a way that everyone can hear and understand

Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also. Otherwise, if you give thanks with your spirit, how can anyone in the position of an outsider say “Amen” to your thanksgiving when he does not know what you are saying? For you may be giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not being built up. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. Nevertheless, in church I would rather speak five words with my mind in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue. Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature. In the Law it is written, “By people of strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners will I speak to this people, and even then they will not listen to me, says the Lord.” Thus tongues are a sign not for believers but for unbelievers, while prophecy is a sign not for unbelievers but for believers. If, therefore, the whole church comes together and all speak in tongues, and outsiders or unbelievers enter,

will they not say that you are out of your minds? But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you.

Each person should bring something to worship, and you should take turns, one at a time, and interpret.

What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. If any speak in a tongue, let there be only two or at most three, and each in turn, and let someone interpret. But if there is no one to interpret, let each of them keep silent in church and speak to himself and to God. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged, and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets. For God is not a God of confusion but of peace.

More teaching for orderly worship

As in all the churches of the saints, the women should keep silent in the churches. For they are not permitted to speak, but should be in submission, as the Law also says. If there is anything they desire to

learn, let them ask their husbands at home. For it is shameful for a woman to speak in church. Or was it from you that the word of God came? Or are you the only ones it has reached?

To all leaders, these are commands, not optional, if you do not recognize this, you are not to be recognized.

If anyone thinks that he is a prophet, or spiritual, he should acknowledge that the things I am writing to you are a command of the Lord. If anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. So, my brothers, earnestly desire to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But all things should be done decently and in order.

Part 3- How we should pray:

1. Pray nonstop

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. -
Romans 12:12

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, -Ephesians 6:18

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. -
Colossians 4:2

Pray without ceasing, -1 Thessalonians 5:17

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands
without anger or quarreling; -1 Timothy 2:8

2. Confess and repent of your sins

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray
and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from
heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

-2 Chronicles 7:14

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit
indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” -Matthew 26:41

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to
cleanse us from all unrighteousness. -1 John 1:9

3. Pray according to God's will and in Christ's name

Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. -John 14:13

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. -John 15:7

You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. -James 4:3

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. -1 John 5:14

4. Pray with faith

Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. -Mark 11:24

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. -Luke 11:9

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. -Luke 18:1

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.

-John 15:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. -James 5:16

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. -Philippians 4:6-7

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. -James 1:5

Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

-1 Peter 5:7

5. Pray devotionally

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.

-Psalm 145:18

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, -Matthew 5:44

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” -Matthew 26:41

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God. -Luke 6:12

“But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

-Luke 6:27-28

You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. -James 4:2

6. Pray communally

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. -2 Chr. 7:14

For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” -Matthew 18:20

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. -1 Timothy 2:1-2

Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. -Colossians 4:2

I desire then that in every place the men should pray, lifting holy hands without anger or quarreling; -1 Timothy 2:8